



Introduced Version

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: Truitt

A HOUSE RESOLUTION encouraging the United States Congress to enact legislation requiring the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to certify all licensure conductor trainee programs for GI Bill benefits as prescribed by the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2010.

Whereas, Hoosier veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan will be seeking employment;

Whereas, Railroads typically are among Indiana's top employers that hire veterans;

Whereas, Many returning veterans are eligible for monthly on-the-job training (OJT) stipends from their GI Bill under the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2010;

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Whereas, The state approving agency, The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, is currently unable to certify Indiana's existing railroad conductor training programs due to their training length;

Whereas, All railroad conductor programs in Indiana currently are considered "On the Job Training (OJT)" and fall beneath the minimum length of training threshold;

Whereas, These federal standards disqualify veterans training as railroad conductors from accessing their earned GI Bill benefits;

Whereas, Effective January 1, 2012, all railroad conductor positions must now be licensed under the federal 2008 Railroad Safety Improvement Act;

Whereas, This new federal licensure standard qualifies all conductor trainee programs in Indiana for benefits under the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2010; and

Whereas, Until the United States Department of Veterans Affairs acknowledges the new licensure criteria and adopts a blanket program encompassing all railroad conductor trainee programs, Hoosier veterans training as railroad conductors will not be able to access their earned GI Bill benefits: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. The Indiana State House of Representatives
2 encourages the United States Congress to enact legislation requiring the
3 United States Department of Veterans Affairs to certify all licensure
4 conductor trainee programs for GI Bill benefits as prescribed by the
5 Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2010.

